



April 26, 2021

Contents

Employee Spotlight.....	1
Memorial for Page Hutchinson.....	1
News You Can Use	2
Tick-Repellent Treatment is Available Again!.....	2
Gypsy Moth Webinar.....	2
Last Week.....	2
Agency Matters/Operations	2
Forestland Conservation.....	3
Forest Resource Management	3
Agency Lands	3
State Forest.....	4
Good Neighbor Authority	4
Central Region	4
Eastern Region.....	5
Western Region	6
Public Information	7
News Clips.....	7

Employee Spotlight

Memorial for Page Hutchinson

- ◆ Arbor Day was always a very special day for our colleague and friend, Page Hutchinson. This Arbor Day, we are celebrating Page and remembering the tremendous influence she has had within our agency and across the state. We are dedicating a redbud tree to Page on April 30 at 1 p.m. in the meadow across from VDOF headquarters. All VDOF staff are invited to attend, either in person or virtually. The dedication will also be broadcast live on Facebook and Instagram so that Page's many friends and colleagues beyond VDOF may participate virtually. Please feel free to share the links in the flier with folks outside of VDOF who would like to share this moment to remember Page.



On Arbor Day 2021, the Virginia Department of Forestry is planting a tree in memory of our friend and colleague, Page Hutchinson.

Join us virtually for the ceremony.
April 30, 2021 at 1:00 PM Eastern

The event opens with remarks from State Forester Rob Farrell & colleagues, followed by the presentation of the redbud tree.

www.facebook.com/ForestryVA
www.instagram.com/forestryva/



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestryVA>
<https://www.instagram.com/forestryva/>

News You Can Use

Tick-Repellent Treatment is Available Again!

- ◆ For new staff and anyone who failed to take advantage of this wonderful offer last year, the agency is once again offering to reimburse field staff for having their field uniform pants treated with tick-repellent from InsectShield. For those of you not familiar with this treatment, InsectShield takes the pants you send them and impregnates them with a permethrin solution that lasts up to 70 washes. “The reviews from our folks who took advantage last time have been 5 stars and I haven’t heard anyone who was sorry they did it or who hadn’t noticed a significant decrease in ticks, so I encourage everyone who spends time in the field to take advantage of this opportunity. If you don’t want to take my word for it, ask the other folks in your team,” Ed Zimmer (Deputy State Forester). The plan is to allow each employee to have two pairs of pants treated every two years, so folks who took advantage of this last year will have another opportunity next summer.
- As in the past, the agency will reimburse you for the treatment and shipping (both ways) for up to two pairs of field uniform pants. Please do not submit for reimbursement until you have paid for the treatment and shipping back and forth, and have received your pants back. Reimbursement will be on the standard expense voucher. When shipping your pants to InsectShield, please use the attached order form. Costs, shipping address, and other pertinent info is included on the form.



IS YOC Order Form -
Corporate.pdf

Gypsy Moth Webinar

- ◆ The Emerald Ash Borer Information Network is hosting a series of 30 minute webinars this spring about important forest pests. Wednesday, April 28 at 11am is "Gypsy Moth: Everything you need to know in half an hour". Register here: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/eabu.php>

Last Week

Agency Matters/Operations

- ◆ 100 Days and Counting ... April 16 marked the hundredth day that VDOF Incident Management Team (IMT) members have provided planning and coordination assistance to Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) and Virginia Department of Health (VDH) in support of the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination effort in the state. Currently, twenty VDOF personnel are committed to the effort, working in two ten-person teams, with each team working in a staggered rotation of 30 days on followed by 30 days off.
- ◆ VDOF’s IMT members are focused on the establishment of new vaccination sites throughout the Commonwealth, helping VDEM’s Regional Coordinators enhance the cooperative actions of the local health districts and VDH, providing assistance to coordinate the logistical support of currently operating vaccination sites, and tracking and assembling the daily situational information related to COVID vaccination progress in the Commonwealth.

Forestland Conservation

- ◆ Trees Virginia hosted a Northern Virginia (NoVA) Roundtable discussion via zoom to address concerns regarding the upcoming Cicada Brood X emergence. Eric Day (Virginia Tech) discussed the life cycle of the insect, common misconceptions as well as various ways to protect small trees from potential damage. Around 100 people attended.
- ◆ Lara Johnson (U&CF program manager) met with representatives from Southside Releaf to discuss opportunities to collaborate to help expand southside Richmond's tree canopy.
- ◆ Joe Lehen (urban wood utilization forester), Jeremy Harold (Harrisonburg's Green Space manger) and Mike Hott (Harrisonburg's Pollinator Program coordinator) presented a program to a group of grad students from James Madison University's (JMU's) Environmental Studies program. Topics included Harrisonburg's Pollinator and Urban Wood programs, and VDOF's statewide Urban Wood Program.
- ◆ In the Southern Regional Extension Forestry News, VDOF was listed as being part of two award-winning publications as recognized by the Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals (ANREP). The award winning publications are:
 - BOOK OR COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM – CURRICULUM SILVER AWARD
Legacy Planning: A Guide for Virginia Woodland Owners
Adam Downing, Jennifer Gagnon, Lesha Berkel, Mike Santucci, and Travis Mountain from Virginia Tech
 - LONG PUBLICATION – BRONZE AWARD
WOODLAND HEALTH PRACTICES HANDBOOK: A PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE FOR CREATING, ENHANCING, AND MAINTAINING NATURAL AREAS
Adam Downing, Agnes Kedmenecz, Andrew Kling, Craig Highfield, David Jackson, Joe Lehen, Jonathan Kays, Joy Drohan, Julianne Schiefer, and Stanton Gill. Virginia Tech, University of Maryland, Alliance for Chesapeake Bay, Penn State, Virginia Department of Forestry, and Eco-Write, LLC.
 - Raina DeFonza (public information specialist) and Michelle Stoll (public information director) also assisted in the development of these publications.

Forest Resource Management

- ◆ Forest health program staff worked with Shenandoah work area staff Matt Wolanski (senior area forester) and Chad Briggs (forest technician) to treat over 90 hemlock trees at First Mountain State Forest. This treatment will protect the hemlock trees from the hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive insect, for up to seven years.

Agency Lands

- ◆ The 2021 loblolly pine controlled pollination project came to conclusion on April 18 at New Kent Forestry Center (NKFC). The target of 30,000 bags was exceeded by close to a thousand because the last three trees couldn't be left partially done (pictured).
 - 50 gallons of pollen catkins were collected from which 22 liters of pollen were processed. We used 15 liters this season and stored 7 liters for next year.
- ◆ Forest Research and Augusta Forestry Center staff planted over 1,800 hybrid American chestnuts from last fall's collections at Lesesne State Forest. The nuts are all open-pollinated from parent trees ranging from wild-type American chestnuts to



approximately 7/8 American: Chinese chestnut hybrids. Seedlings from this planting will populate research tests for future seed production and genotype testing.

- ◆ Katlin Dewitt (forest health specialist) and Ones Bitoki (tree improvement forester) collected fusiform rust aeciospores from two sites, NKFC and Hockley (pictured).
 - Director of the Resistance Screening Center at Asheville Dr. Cathleen had asked for help with the annual collection throughout the service area. While we were not included in the service area, Ones reached out to request that we be included since we are starting to see some incidences of fusiform rust in our southeast region.



State Forest

- ◆ Ed Stoots (state lands coordinator), Zach Olinger (forest management & education specialist), Tom Zaebst (assistant state forests manager), Chad Austin (water quality engineer), and Cole Young (water quality specialist) scouted Moore's Creek right-of-way to see what would be needed in terms of road development in hopes of applying for possible grant funding or other funding sources going forward to build the access road.
- ◆ Mike Womack (forest management specialist) assisted Corey Green, a Virginia Tech Professor to locate trucking for logs/lumber for the Virginia Tech milling study on the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest.
- ◆ The 2021 Adventure Race was held at Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest/Holliday Lake State Park on March 26-27 - <https://www.adventureaddictsranking.com/brakethehabit>
- ◆ State Forest Staff planted an additional two dozen control pollinated American chestnuts in the Matthews State Forest orchard.
- ◆ Future Farmers of America (FFA) Competition was held on the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest at the CT Trailhead Parking Area. Tom Snoddy (area forester) and Rick Butler (forester specialist) with the Central Region assisted.

Good Neighbor Authority

- ◆ Ed Stoots reviewed a first draft of an amendment to VDOF's Good Neighbor Authority Agreement that would add over 1,100 acres of possible timber harvesting projects with the George Washington/ Jefferson National Forest with areas identified on two additional ranger districts.

Central Region

- ◆ David Powell (senior area forester) taught the wildfire portion of Firefighter 1 to the latest Albemarle Volunteer Fire Department recruiting class.
- ◆ David Powell participated in an interview with a group of University of Virginia engineering students who are working on a wildfire early detection engineering project.
- ◆ Jim McGlone (urban forest conservationist) worked with the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) on the annual seedling sale. Jim helped select the species for the sale, helped bundle them, and was on hand to answer questions about how to plant and where to plant the seedlings.
- ◆ Jim McGlone taught Dendrology and Forest Ecology to the 2021 spring basic training class of the Fairfax Master Naturalists. He will meet with the class later for a field trip at Mason Neck State Park where he will apply information from the lecture to the landscape.

- ◆ Jordan Herring (senior area forester) assisted the town of Purcellville with a tree planting at the Suzanne R. Kane Nature Preserve. Jordan taught volunteers how to plant containerized trees and provided overall guidance for the project. The town received funding from the Virginia Trees for Clean Water grant program for this tree planting.
- ◆ The Heartland Work Area sponsored the Area Forestry competition for FFA forestry students. The scores were close, but Buckingham County came out on top and will move on to the State competition. Tom Snoddy (area forester) headed up the team with lots of help from Haley Midkiff (area forester) and Rick Butler.

Eastern Region

- ◆ Paul Reier (forest technician), with assistance from Clint Phegley (area forester), led a wildland fire training for King and Queen County. During the training Paul and Clint introduced eight new firefighters to the basics of wildland firefighting and a review of chainsaw safety.

- Meghan Mulroy-Goldman, Kendall Topping. (community foresters) Stephen Jasenak (area forester), Scott Bachman (senior area forester), and Molly O'Liddy worked with volunteers from the Chesapeake Master Gardeners and ForKids staff to plant trees at the new ForKids Facility in South



Norfolk. The new facility will serve as the regional headquarters for the organization and as an expanded emergency shelter and education center for after school programming. Over the past year, Meghan worked with the ForKids staff and Chesapeake Extension Agent Mike Andruczyk to plan for the planting at the facility and for the rooftop garden. The trees planted on the facility and the adjacent park will hopefully provide relief from the hot summer sun for the families and ForKids staff, as well as help to make the facility feel safe and welcoming. The Kousa Dogwoods and pineapple guavas that were planted at the entrance, as well as the fruit trees and shrubs that were



planted on the rooftop garden earlier this year, will provide fruit that can be used by the facility's kitchen staff or eaten by the families.

- The larger community of South Norfolk will also be able to benefit from the trees in the city park behind the building. Scott reported that on the way from the site, a young man of maybe 10-12 years old from the community asked what we were doing. Scott pointed to the trees and told him we had just planted them. He added that he could watch them grow over the years. The youngster was surprised that they would grow and asked how big they would get. Among the trees that were planted were swamp white oaks, so he told him that by the time he graduated from high school they would be as tall as twenty perhaps thirty feet. (pictured) Kendall Topping (community forester) was invited to give a presentation on VDOF's role in community forestry to the Virginia Beach Audubon Society. She had contacted the Audubon Society about building a relationship with them centered on establishing woody vegetation for the myriad benefits that trees provide. This



resulted in a request to speak to the group via Zoom to spread the word. Around 10 society member logged in to see her presentation.

- ◆ Stephen Jasenak and Scott Bachman were invited to visit the Old Dominion University property at the Zuni Pine Barrens with Dr. Lytton Musselman and his guest Dr. Arvind Bhuta. Dr. Bhuta is currently the National Forest Stewardship Program Manager for the USDA Forest Service working from the DC headquarters. His research interest is tree ring dendrochronology and climate variability. Part of his research can be used to determine fire frequency in the pre-colonial/fire suppression environment. The Zuni Pine barrens is a remnant longleaf pine stand and contains many archeologically significant pine stumps. These tree stumps are presumed to have been from trees that germinated more than 300 years in the past. Harvesting “cookies” of these stumps may help to provide data on fire frequency by analyzing the burn scars at or near the ground surface. Using dendrochronological samples of known age and matching the cookies to this data an age may even be able to be determined for the stumps. Stephen and Scott will be harvesting these cookies for the ODU project this summer. (pictured)



- <https://www.environmentalscience.org/dendrochronology-tree-rings-tell-us>

Western Region

- ◆ Recently a landowner brought this interesting sight to our Henry County field office. He had cut down a dead white pine tree in his yard that was hollow in the center. The limbs that had formed when the tree was very young were still intact. The landowner is still deciding how best to use this oddity, but a glass top would make an excellent table and conversation piece. (pictured)



- ◆ Kenny Thomas (forest technician) and Bill Miller (senior area forester) met with the new Superintendent of the Wise Correctional Unit 18 (WCU 18) in Coeburn Dennis Collins. Kenny and Bill discussed continuing the excellent working relationship VDOF has with WCU 18. The offenders at WCU 18 have assisted VDOF with wildfire suppression, hand tool maintenance/repair, small engine repair, and re-decking and painting transport beds. The offenders can list the skills they learn fighting fires and performing maintenance on their work record. Department of Corrections (DOC) staff also view this as an opportunity for the offenders to give to their community.
- ◆ The Mountain Valley Area team met in Staunton at the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind (VSDB) to plant 200 hardwood seedlings on the campus. Once the trees are established, they will provide aesthetic beauty and educational opportunities for the students, as well as, reduce mowing costs. Trees and tubes were paid for with State Lands Funds. Thank you to the team for your hard work and finishing in a day, to Ed Stoots for assisting with the application process and approvals, and to the staff at VSDB for their interest and desire to add more trees within the community. (pictured)



Public Information

- ◆ Michelle Stoll (public information director) and Raina DeFonza (public information specialist) met last week with public affairs staff from the George Washington Thomas Jefferson (GWTJ) National Forest. The GWTJ folks included Nadine Siak, Rebecca Robbins, Stephanie Chapman, and Jen O’Leary. Points of discussion included working together on consistent language around prescribed burns, collaboration on social media campaigns, and collecting a set of shared talking points related to prescribed fire that we can all draw from. The group also discussed how we can help people better understand the differences between our agencies and our missions. To that end, we will collaborate on talking points about “who we are/what we do” and “who we are not and what we don’t do.” This was a valuable opportunity for everyone to meet and the group agreed to meet at key times during the year to align messaging.
- ◆ Jon Perry (forest technician) shared this fire crew point of view from a prescribed burn in the spring of 2021. Prescribed fire can be a critical tool for wildlife managers & foresters to improve habitat.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1oINnvhsQ>
- ◆ The following stories appeared recently in “Field Notes”
 - [Reforestation of Timberlands Program – 50 Years Strong!](#)
 - [Field Notes: Partnerships at Pleasant Grove](#)
 - [Field Notes: Buffer Benefits for River and Trail](#)
 - [Field Notes: Restoration Planting at the Mariners’ Museum and Park](#)

News Clips

- ◆ \$1 million for community projects in Southwest Virginia
- ◆ State Forestry Department offering Ash treatment cost-share program
- ◆ State sees uptick in wildfires, with nine brush fires occurring in Upshur County so far this year
- ◆ Forest fires continue across the two Virginias, as spring fire season is “not truly over”
- ◆ From Smoky Skies to a Green Horizon: Scientists Convert Fire-Risk Wood into Biofuel
- ◆ Burn, baby, burn: Leopold’s Preserve sets 3 prescribed fires to restore native meadows
- ◆ Tree Stewards break from town after 20-plus years
- ◆ 5 Friday Fauquier factoids: Farmers market vendors